

Message Text

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ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06 EUR-12
NEA-10 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00
SIL-01 L-03 /081 W
-----200830Z 098406 /20

P R 200724Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 025
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 7746

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, RP
SUBJECT: ILO: 63RD INTERNATIONAL LABOR CONFERENCE (ILO)
DEMARCHE

REF: (A) STATE 102699, (B) STATE 103403, (C) GENEVA 3632,
(D) MANILA 16851

1. SUMMARY: LABOR SECRETARY OPLE HAS INFORMED US HE WILL DEFER MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PHILIPPINE POSITIONS ON 63RD CONFERENCE ISSUES UNTIL AFTER MEETING OF ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS AND ILO DELEGATES AT PATAYA MAY 27. WHILE WE ENVISAGE SUPPORT OF US POSITION ON ISRAELI RESOLUTION FROM PHILIPPINE LABOR AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES, GOP SUPPORT IS LESS CERTAIN BECAUSE OF CONCERN OVER IMPLICATIONS FOR MUSLIM REBELLION PROBLEM HERE. MUCH WILL APPARENTLY DEPEND ON HOW ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS REACT TO BRIEFING BY ILO DIRECTOR GENERAL'S REPRESENTATIVE AT PATAYA. END SUMMARY.

2. IN THE ABSENCE OF FOREIGN SECRETARY ROMULO ABROAD, EMBASSY
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DECIDED IT WOULD NOT BE PARTICULARLY PRODUCTIVE TO MAKE PERSONAL APPROACH AT DFA UNDERSECRETARYBLEVEL (SEE REF D). EMBASSY RATHER DISPATCHED DIPLOMATIC NOTE (BASED ON REFS A AND B) TO DFA MAY 12 AND SUBSEQUENTLY PRESENTED COPY OF NOTE TO LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE WHO IS ONE OF PRIME DETERMINANTS OF GOP POLICIES RESPECTING ILO.

3. OPLE INFORMED LABATT MAY 17 THAT HE WOULD DEFER MAKING HIS RECOMMENDATION FOR PHILIPPINE POSITION ON THE ISSUES AT THE 63RD CONFERENCE UNTIL AFTER MAY 27 ASEAN CONFERENCE OF LABOR MINISTERS AND ILO DELEGATES AT PATAYA. OPLE STATED THAT BECAUSE DIRECTOR GENERAL BLANCHARD WAS SPENDING "TWO WEEKS IN WASHINGTON CONFERRING WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND GEORGE MEANY", WE ASKED HIM TO COME TO OUR PATAYA MEETING TO BRIEF US ON THE ISSUES. HOWEVER, BLANCHARD IS SENDING HIS CHIEF ASSISTANT, MR. FOUTAIN IN HIS PLACE. THE ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS, HE ADDED WILL TRY TO FORMULATE A REGIONAL POSITION ON ALL ISSUES THAT MIGHT COME BEFORE THE ILO CONFERENCE. AS FOR HIMSELF, HE SAID, HE WANTED TO SEE THE USS REMAIN IN THE ILO BUT HE PREFERRED TO PLAY A MODERATING ROLE AT THE CONFERENCE. WHEN LABATT PRESSED HIM TO REVEAL HIS PERSONAL VIEWS, OPLE SAID HE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE US POSITION ON THE ISSUES BUT THAT THE "CLOSING OF THE BOOK" ON THE 1974 ISRAELI RESOLUTION COULD "CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR OUR DFA MIDDLE EAST POLICY WHICH SECRETARY ROMULO WOULD HAVE TO DECIDE." ONCE AGAIN LABATT REMINDED OPLE THAT OUR POSITION ON THE ISRAELI RESOLUTION WAS ESSENTIALLY ONE OF A SUPPORTING DUE PROCESS AND FAIR PLAY. LABATT NOTED THAT SHOULD THE US BE FORCED TO WITHDRAW FROM THE ILO, THAT ACT COULD REINFORCE THE ANTI-UNITED NATIONS FEELINGS IN THE US AND DOMINO EFFECT COULD DEVELOP THUS FORCING THE US OUT OF OTHER UN AGENCIES.

4. OPLE EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT HE WOULD BE ATTENDING THE ILO CONFERENCE THIS YEAR. HIS 83 YEAR OLD FATHER HAS JUST SUFFERED HIS THIRD HEART ATTACK AND IS UNDER INTENSIVE CARE. OPLE WILL ATTEND THE ASEAN MINISTERS MEETING BECAUSE THAT IS ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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A COUPLE OF HOURS TRAVEL AWAY. IN THE PAST HE HAS ASSIGNED UNDERSECRETARY AMADO INCIONG TO REPRESENT HIM WHEN HE COULD NOT GO ABROAD. THE PHILIPPINE ILO DELEGATION IS THUS EXPECTED TO BE: BLAS OPLE OR AMADO INCIONG (PROBABLY THE LATTER) - GOVERNMENT DELEGATE, BERT OCA, PRESIDENT OF THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES - WORKER DELEGATE, AUERLIO PERIQUET, PRESIDENT OF PACIFIC UNION INSURANCE CO., EMPLOYER DELEGATE.

5. BERT OCA AND KITO MENDOZA, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE TUCP, HAVE BEEN ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORTERS OF THE US POSITION ON ALL ILO ISSUES. MENDOZA HAS BEEN ALERTED TO THE POSSIBLE ABSENCE OF BOB HAWKE AT THE GOVERNING BODY MEETING (REF C). MENDOZA WILL ATTEMPT TO FILL IN FOR HAWKE. HIS ETA GENEVA IS MAY 24. EMPLOYER DELEGATE PERIQUET WAS A DELEGATE TO LAST YEAR'S CONFERENCE AND WAS AN ALTERNATE ON THE STANDING ORDERS COMMITTEE. HE IS CLEARLY A SUPPORTER OF DUE PROCESS AND FAIR PLAY AND WILL DO HIS BEST TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS YEAR'S STANDING ORDER COMMITTEE. HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS THE

POLITICS OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S REPORT AND HOW IT MIGHT
BE RENDERED INEFFECTIVE. HIS PARTING WORDS TO LABATT
WERE "DON'T WORRY, I WON'T SUBMIT TO ARM TWISTING FROM
THE GOVERNMENT."

4. COMMENT: WE CAN EXPECT THAT THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO
EVINCE SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE 1974 ISRAELI RESOLUTION SINCE
GOP POSITION ON THIS ISSUE COULD HAVE SOME BEARING ON MUSLIM
REBELLION PROBLEMS HERE. WE COULD CONCEIVEABLY SEE A SPLIT
IN PHILIPPINE VOTES, WITH LABOR AND EMPLOYERS DELEGATION
VOTING TO SUPPORT US POSITION AND GOP DELEGATE AGAINST. MUCH
WOULD SEEM TO DEPEND ON PATAYA CONFERENCE AND HOW OPLE AND
OTHER ASEAN LABOR MINISTERS REACT TO FOUTAIN'S REPORT.
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